

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 9, 10, 19, and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend Claims 1, 11, 21, and 22, as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus that manages a predetermined device for performing communication over a network, comprising:

a holding unit configured to hold corresponding information corresponding to first device identification information and second device identification information;

an obtaining unit configured to obtain accounting information, which includes a number of sheets printed, based on an image forming operation from the predetermined device;

a determination unit configured to compare a combination of the first device identification information and the second device identification information which are obtained from the predetermined device with the corresponding information held by said holding unit, and determine whether ~~or not~~ at least one of the first device identification information and the second device identification information is being managed;

a communication controlling unit configured to issue a notification to an external apparatus when said determination unit determines that one of the first device identification information and the second device identification information is being managed and the other is not being managed, and not to issue a notification to the external apparatus when said determination unit determines that neither one of the first device identification information and the second device

identification information is being managed, the external apparatus being capable of receiving the notification through a predetermined communications line and managing a plurality of information processing apparatuses; and

an updating unit configured to update the corresponding information held by said holding unit in accordance with an update notification, for updating the combination of the first device identification information and the second device identification information, from the external apparatus,

wherein the notification issued by said communication controlling unit includes information indicating that either the first device identification information or the second device identification information is not being managed, [[and]]

wherein said communication controlling unit restricts notifying issuing the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained from the predetermined device by said obtaining unit ~~to the external apparatus~~ if said determination unit determines either the first device identification information or the second device identification information is not being managed, and removes the restriction and notifies the external apparatus issues of the accounting information obtained by said obtaining unit ~~to the external apparatus~~ when the corresponding information is updated by said updating unit, and

wherein the first device identification information includes internet protocol address information, and the second device identification information includes media access control (MAC) address information.

2. (cancelled).

3. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a receiving unit configured to receive the corresponding information from the external apparatus through the communications line.

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an inputting unit configured to input an instruction for updating the first device identification information and/or the second device identification information,

wherein said communication controlling unit issues a notification for update, based on the update instruction input by said inputting unit, to the external apparatus.

6. - 10. (cancelled).

11. (currently amended) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus that manages a predetermined device for performing communication over a network, the method comprising:

holding corresponding information corresponding to first device identification information and second device identification information;

obtaining accounting information, which includes a number of sheets printed, based on an image forming operation from the predetermined device;

comparing a combination of the first device identification information and the second

device identification information which are obtained from the predetermined device with the corresponding information held in said holding step, and determining whether ~~or not~~ at least one of the first device identification information and the second device identification information is being managed;

controlling issuance of a notification to notify an external apparatus when said determining step determines that one of the first device identification information and the second device identification information is being managed and the other is not being managed, ~~and not to notify~~ issue the notification to the external apparatus when said determining step determines that neither one of the first device identification information and the second device identification information is being managed, the external apparatus being capable of receiving the notification through a predetermined communications line and managing a plurality of information processing apparatuses; and

updating the corresponding information held in said holding step in accordance with an update notification, for updating the combination of the first device identification information and the second device identification information, from the external apparatus,

wherein the notification issued in said controlling step includes information indicating that either the first device identification information or the second device identification information is not being managed, ~~[[and]]~~

wherein said controlling step restricts ~~issuing~~ notifying the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained from the predetermined device in said obtaining step ~~to the external apparatus~~ if said determining step determines either the first device identification information or the second device identification information is not being managed, and removes the

restriction and ~~issues~~ notifies the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained in said obtaining step to the external apparatus when the corresponding information is updated in said updating step, and

wherein the first device identification information includes internet protocol address information, and the second device identification information includes media access control (MAC) address information.

12. (cancelled).

13. (previously presented) An information processing method according to claim 11, further comprising receiving the corresponding information from the external apparatus through the communications line.

14. (cancelled).

15. (previously presented) An information processing method according to claim 11, further comprising

inputting an instruction for updating the first device identification information and/or the second device identification information via an input section, wherein the communication controlling step issues a notification for update, based on the update instruction input in the inputting step, to the external apparatus.

16. - 20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A computer program stored, in executable form, in a computer-usable medium and comprising control logic for causing a computer to manage a predetermined device for performing communication over a network, the control logic comprising computer readable program code for:

holding corresponding information corresponding to first device identification information and second device identification information;

obtaining accounting information, which includes a number of sheets printed, based on an image forming operation from the predetermined device;

comparing a combination of the first device identification information and the second device identification information which are obtained from the predetermined device with the corresponding information held in said holding step, and determining whether ~~or not~~ at least one of the first device identification information and the second device identification information is being managed;

controlling issuance of a notification to notify an external apparatus when said determining step determines that one of the first device identification information and the second device identification information is being managed and the other is not being managed, and not to notify issue the notification to the external apparatus when said determining step determines that neither one of the first device identification information and the second device identification information is being managed, the external apparatus being capable of receiving the notification through a predetermined communications line and managing a plurality of information processing

apparatuses; and

updating the corresponding information held in said holding step in accordance with an update notification, for updating the combination of the first device identification information and the second device identification information, from the external apparatus,

wherein the notification issued in said controlling step includes information indicating that either the first device identification information or the second device identification information is not being managed, [[and]]

wherein said controlling step restricts ~~issuing~~ notifying the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained from the predetermined device in said obtaining step ~~to the external apparatus~~ if said determination step determines either the first device identification information or the second device identification information is not being managed, and removes the restriction and ~~issues~~ notifies the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained in said obtaining step to the external apparatus when the corresponding information is updated in said updating step, and

wherein the first device identification information includes internet protocol address information, and the second device identification information includes media access control (MAC) address information.

22. (currently amended) A recording medium that is readable by a computer storing a program that is executed by an information processing apparatus that manages a predetermined device for performing communication over a network, the program comprising code for:

holding corresponding information corresponding to first device identification

information and second device identification information;

obtaining accounting information, which includes a number of sheets printed, based on an image forming operation from the predetermined device;

comparing a combination of the first device identification information and the second device identification information which are obtained from the predetermined device with the corresponding information held in said holding step, and determining whether ~~or not~~ at least one of the first device identification information and the second device identification information is being managed;

controlling issuance of a notification to notify an external apparatus when said determining step determines that one of the first device identification information and the second device identification information is being managed and the other is not being managed, and not to ~~notify~~ issue the notification to the external apparatus when said determining step determines that neither one of the first device identification information and the second device identification information is being managed, the external apparatus being capable of receiving the notification through a predetermined communications line and managing a plurality of information processing apparatuses; and

updating the corresponding information held in said holding step in accordance with an update notification, for updating the combination of the first device identification information and the second device identification information, from the external apparatus,

wherein the notification issued in said controlling step includes information indicating that either the first device identification information or the second device identification information is not being managed, [[and]]



wherein said controlling step restricts ~~issuing~~ notifying the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained from the predetermined device in said obtaining step to the external apparatus if said determination step determines either the first device identification information or the second device identification information is not being managed, and removes the restriction and ~~issues~~ notifies the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained in said obtaining step to the external apparatus when the corresponding information is updated in said updating step, and

wherein the first device identification information includes internet protocol address information, and the second device identification information includes media access control (MAC) address information.